

**Memorandum of the Meeting
Regular Study Session/Meeting
Twenty-Eighth Town Council of Highland
Monday, August 04, 2014**

The regular study session of the Twenty-Eighth Town Council of the Town of Highland was convened at the regular place, the Highland Municipal, 3333 Ridge Road, Highland, Indiana, in the plenary meeting chambers on **Monday, August 04, 2014** at the time of 7:05 o'clock p.m. just after the conclusion of a special meeting.

Silent Roll Call: Councilors Bernie Zemen, Mark Herak, Dan Vassar, Konnie Kuiper and Dennis Adams were present. A quorum was attained. The Clerk-Treasurer Michael W. Griffin was present to memorialize the proceedings.

Also present: Rhett L. Tauber, Town Attorney; Peter T. Hojnicky, Metropolitan Police Chief; Kenneth J. Mika, Building Commissioner/Chief Inspector; David Jones, Inspector for Code Enforcement; Alex M. Brown, CPRP, Superintendent of Parks and Recreation; Steve Mileusnich of the Advisory Board of Zoning Appeals and Randy Bowman, Electrical Inspector; Ed Dabrowski of CBL Consulting - the IT Consultant; George Vande Werken, Economic Development Commission; Karen Ziants, Dawn Wolak, Rose James, Kelley Bridges of the Community Events Commission were present.

General Substance of Matters Discussed

It was noted that code enforcement official from the City of Hammond was scheduled to appear and discuss ways and means to enhance code compliance and enforcement. The Town Council was advised that he was instructed not to attend by his Mayor.

1. *Issue of Beer Tent in Main Square for Labor Day Festival.* The Town Council, and Kelly Bridges, President of the Community Events Commission, along with the Parks and Recreation Superintendent discussed the prospect of including a Beer Tent in Main Square Park for the pending Labor Day Festival, to run from August 29, 2014 through Monday, September 1, 2014. It was noted that the Chamber of Commerce had abandoned conducting its annual Fall Festival, styled most lately as the Midwest Zest Fest.

The discussion included the importance of fencing or other barriers that would make access more controlled, and limited and would prevent access by young people. It was further noted that the American Legion Post 180 would provide volunteers and would actually hold the beer permit. There would be a sharing of the net profits between the Community Events Commission and the American Legion Post 180.

It was noted that in order to permit a beer tent in Main Square Park, the Highland Municipal Code would require amending. It was further noted that the amusement and ride vendor, Alpine, was available.

It was further noted that during the same weekend the nearby Town of Griffith would be conducting its annual Rock and Rail Festival.

The discussion noted that it was unclear whether the Labor Day event should be made an annual one. It would be conducted this year, and then evaluated. Ms. Bridges opined that the beer tent could potentially offset other costs and make the event more sustainable. It was noted that bands and other foods would be on hand as well.

The request was taken under consideration by the Town Council.

2. The Parks and Recreation Superintendent also requested that the sunset provision in the Park Code that forced expiration of the authority to allow alcohol to be dispensed for

catered events at the Lincoln Community Center, as of December 31, 2013. The Superintendent asked that the authority be renewed at least for a time certain if not without qualification.

The Town Council and the Parks and Recreation Superintendent discussed the ways and means of extending the authority. The discussion included the bookings that included alcohol since the opening of the reconstructed Lincoln Community Center. The Superintendent indicated that if the authority could not be granted without qualification, that it be allowed to go through the end of 2015.

3. The Town Council, the Building Commissioner/Chief Inspector, the Assistant Inspector for Code Enforcement and the Clerk-Treasurer discussed the needs for greater enforcement of existing codes, the possible need for added resources to support the greater emphasis, and related matters.

A colloquy between and among Councilor Adams, Councilor Herak, the Assistant Inspector for Code Enforcement and the Chief Inspector regarding enforcement for weeds or grass cutting. The colloquy included a direct inquiry regarding in some cases whether the Assistant Inspector for Code Enforcement did not issue citations in cases of low likelihood of compliance.

Councilor Adams stated that during a recent drive through town he believed that he spotted potentially up to 34 citable offenses that involved lower standards of home care or violation of the existing building maintenance code.

The discussion included the desirability to amend portions of the existing code from its strict basis in the state County Weed Law to the provisions of ordinance enforcement in I.C. 36-1-6, which is regarded to offer a preferable ordinance enforcement model, that allowed for remediation of the offending property and to recover the costs through recording costs and liens in the matter that the law protects waste water liens.

The Town Attorney would review the issues and prepare some suggested amendments to the existing Highland Municipal Code informed from the discussion at this meeting.

There being no further business necessary or desired to be discussed by the Town Council, the regular study session of the Town Council of **Monday, August 04, 2014**, was adjourned at 8:45 o'clock p.m.

Michael W. Griffin, IAMC/MMC/CPFA/CPFIM/CMO
Clerk-Treasurer